

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of November 22, 2006, and the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment of March 27, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 67 and 79 have been amended to further clarify the scope of protection. Claims 68-69, 72-73, 76, and 81 have been withdrawn. Claims 82-90 have been added. Thus, claims 67, 70-71, 74-75, 77-80, and 82-90 remain pending.

Claims 67-81 stand withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected groups from a previous restriction mailed May 2, 2006; however, claims dependent 70-71, 74-75, and 77-80 are drawn to elected group I from that restriction and independent claim 67 is drawn to elected group I from that restriction but for one feature. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 67 to include features drawn to elected group I. In addition, Applicants have withdrawn claims 68-69, 72-73, 76, and 81. However, upon allowance independent claim 67, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to rejoin one or more of claims 68-69, 72-73, 76, and 81 into the present matter. New claims 82-90 are similar to claims 67, 70-71, 74-75, and 77-80, but are directed to a method. Claims 82-90 are directed to features drawn to the same elected group I.

All matters having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2007

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